

ABSTRACT

A method for flexible allocation of a resource in which a soft limit and a hard limit are assigned to each of a set of potential users of the resource.

5 The soft limits are selected to guarantee access to the resource by all of the potential users. The hard limits are selected to enable each potential user to exceed the corresponding soft limit on a first-come-first-served basis. A request from a user for

10 allocation of a portion of the resource is handled by granting the request if the request if allowed would not exceed soft limit assigned to the user. The request is denied if the request if allowed would exceed the hard limit assigned to the user. To avoid

15 overtaking the capacity of the resource, the request is denied even when the hard limit of the user is not exceeded if the request if allowed would cause a total allocation of the resource to exceed a high watermark assigned to the resource.

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